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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

No. CXCII. DECEMBER, 1864. Vol. XVI.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of materials for 40 warm garments, with a present to those who make them, from "One who feels the sharpness of winter;" clothing for the Fitzroy Market Ragged Schools, from the Highgate Ladies' Working Party; a parcel of clothing for Field Lane School, from a Friend at Highgate, per Miss Bodkin; a chest of clothing and tracts, from Miss Lingwood; a parcel of clothing, &c., from Mrs. Reade; articles of warm clothing, from Mrs. and Miss Paddey; clothing for Bluegate Fields School, and waste paper from Miss Ripley.

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Prospectuses and Reports may be had on application by letter or otherwise, at 200, Euston Road, N.W. The following contributions are very gratefully acknowledged:—W. Kent, Esq., 10s.; Mr. Gibson, 10s.; C. C. C., 10s.; W. Good, Esq., £1 1s.; J. Thompson, Esq., £1; Mrs. H., £1; Miss Gurney, £2 2s.; Mrs. Sandog, £2; Mr. Keith, £5; R. Holden, Esq., £10.

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Papers, Original and Selected.

WORKING CLASSES' EXHIBITIONS.

First impulses may ask, "What have Ragged Schools to do with Working Men's Industrial Exhibitions?" At present not much, and for the reason that only two have been held; the first in Lambeth Baths, Westminster Bridge Road; and the second in the Agricultural Hall, Islington. In both the noble President of the Ragged School Union has taken a prominent position, and the teachers and friends of Ragged Schools have done something towards promoting their formation and working out their successes. The more recent of the two had its origin in the Lamb and Flag Ragged School-rooms, Clerkenwell Green. The same gentlemen that hold the offices of Patron, Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, held similar offices for the North London Working Classes' Industrial Exhibition. So far the Ragged Schools have been identified with Working Men's Exhibitions, but the connection is closer than that of official relationship. Ragged Schools, for more than twenty years, have been operating on the poorest of the non-producing portion of the community. The basis of the Ragged Schools was the revealed word of God, which teaches that the "idle soul shall suffer hunger," and that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich." The former part of this lesson was soon within the grasp of Ragged School children; their experience helped their intellect, and they soon proved apt scholars. But the second part was not received with equal facility, because there was here no right experience to fall back upon. Hunger, consequent upon idleness, was soon fully understood; but the truth that riches, comparative riches, would follow industry was at first rejected, then only doubted, afterwards merely questioned. And why? Because their idea of industry was that spurt of hard work that was gone through by fits and starts, and which was expected to be rewarded with a payment, based more on an eleemosynary than a commercial footing. Thus the current of experience ran against the teaching, hence the difficulty. It was soon seen that, with this class, for industry to be

understood, it must be taught in practice rather than in theory. Industrial classes were, therefore, introduced in the early career of Ragged Schools, and have been fostered to the present time. The boys and girls who were the first to receive the benefit of this industrial training, are now the men and women of the present generation. The little seed that was sown, amid so much difficulty, twenty years ago, has germinated; and the fruit, such as it is, is beginning to be seen among the productions sent to Working Men's Exhibitions. We know not how many of the 880 exhibitors, whose productions formed that wonderful display at Islington, had received any portion of their training and education in Ragged Schools, but particulars of such a kind, could they have been gathered, would have been as curious as it would, without doubt, have been gratifying.

That the children of our Ragged Schools possess talent, and diversified talent, which only needs patient perseverance to elicit, has been often proved. When Mrs. Chisholm, a few years since, was selecting from among the Ragged School boys of London youths to become shepherds in Australia, she declared from the experience gained of these and of others from the Fens of Lincolnshire, that, of the two classes, the Ragged School boys made the better shepherds in Australia; for she found, in the first place, they were willing to learn their work; and, in the second, ready to practise what they had so very recently acquired. That was valuable testimony in favour of the training such rough and unpromising material had received. And before us, on our writing-table, are two Exhibition objects, showing considerable taste and skill, the productions of Ragged School children, and which can, at any time, be seen at the office of the Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall. One is a star of symmetrical proportion, formed of 179 paper pompones. The flowers are composed of 3,696 pieces of coloured paper, and so made and arranged as to indicate that the maker of the flowers and designer of the star is acquiring a habit of patient industry, and possesses, at least, the elements of skill. From the paper at the foot of the star, we learn that the designer is a little boy of twelve years of age, and now a scholar in Nichol Street Ragged School. A little more training from his teachers, and a little more patient perseverance in his industrial pursuits, will enable this little fellow to take, by-and-by, some useful, and it may be skilful, position among the producers of his country, and, as such, to display his productions at coming exhibitions of the

working men of London. But the probability is that, when exhibited, they will not be known to be the production of the once poor ragged scholar of the Nichol Street Ragged School.

The other article before us is a doll's drawing-room. The room was made by the boys in the Grotto Passage Ragged School, and its contents by the girls in the Gray's Yard Ragged School. The furniture consists of a sofa, two settees, six chairs, two loo-tables, two flower-stands well filled with paper flowers, two looking-glasses on the walls, with a pair of sconces to each, holding twelve wax candles. The two windows are prettily draped with curtains, with cornices complete. The floor is carpeted with a suitable bit of chintz; and in the centre of the room is a wax lady prettily dressed nursing a wax baby in her arms. The peculiarity of the furniture is, that it is all made of bobbing wire covered with a plastic material, and then either covered with silk, or stained to imitate rosewood. Of all the articles we have seen exhibited, as the work of children of any class, we have seen nothing equal to the articles now described; and had it not been for the training those children had in their schools, these articles would never have been produced, and Working Men's Exhibitions would never have been enriched by these and other articles produced under similar circumstances. No apology, therefore, need to be made for the Ragged School friends taking a foremost and leading position in the formation and conduct of Working Men's Exhibitions. The connection between the one and the other is like that of sowing the seed and the reaping of the harvest. Industry was inculcated, and the first-fruits of industry are being reaped.

On reference to the catalogue of the North London Exhibition, it will be seen that its object, as at first conceived, was of a limited extent, and of a humble character; but, by degrees, it developed so as at last to include the three postal districts of N.W., N., and N.E., and no building could be found sufficiently capacious and so suitable as the Agricultural Hall, Islington. As that catalogue may not be possessed by many of our readers, we take from it the following extracts:—

"The circumstances under which the North London Working Classes' Industrial Exhibition was originated, and the method adopted by the Committee of Management to develop the idea and carry out the enterprise, may not only be interesting to the casual visitor, but also afford some slight assistance to others who may desire to take up the movement. Some half-dozen persons, all properly belonging to the working classes, met in April, at the invitation of Mr. W. J. Watts, at the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools, Clerkenwell Green, and discussed the advisability of holding

an Exhibition in the parish of Clerkenwell, similar to one that had taken place in Lambeth some months previously. This resulted in their calling a public meeting, at which a committee was elected, and a few general rules submitted for public approval. The difficulty of making the matter known, however, caused but a limited attendance, and for some weeks nothing occurred to lead the promoters to suppose that the result would be more than a small local display of amateur industry. The district of Islington, however, represented by an attendant at one of the subsequent meetings, sought permission to join in the scheme, and an offer was made to institute a local committee and call a public meeting in furtherance of the object. This was followed by similar applications from St. Pancras, Holborn, St. Luke's, Hoxton, Holloway, and Camden Town, and in each district a successful local effort was made, several gentlemen of standing presiding and taking a part in their public meetings. Week by week an increased number of applications for space were sent in, and the most encouraging communications received from well-known persons of undoubted experience in such matters.

"The Committee, therefore, felt warranted in permitting the undertaking to expand beyond the limit originally intended, and endeavoured to render it at the same time more comprehensive in character. With its growth, however, came increased responsibilities, and an endeavour was consequently made to raise a Guarantee Fund; this, without much effort, being accomplished, the Committee were placed in a more favourable position; for although everything appeared promising, yet they had felt that to incur pecuniary risk without offers of assistance in case of loss, would have been unfair to themselves, and prejudicial to the interests of the Exhibition. The total of the Guarantee Fund amounts to £350, the Committee, however, hope that they may have the pleasurable task of presenting a balance-sheet that will need no call upon that Fund.

"Relieved of this source of anxiety, the Committee encountered another, which seemed at first less easy of removal. The space applied for by intending exhibitors had exceeded that to be obtained in any ordinary available building, and it was proposed to secure the minor room of the Agricultural Hall, at Islington, which even then seemed larger than would be required. The Committee, however, had no sooner terminated their negotiation with the Directors, who had taken a deep interest in the undertaking, than they discovered that the demand for space had again exceeded the amount at their disposal. This matter was explained to the Directors, who at once placed the large hall at the service of the Committee upon exceedingly liberal terms. Notwithstanding the limited time for fitting up so large a building, the Committee at once accepted the offer of the Directors, to whom they have much pleasure in publicly expressing their acknowledgments for being thus enabled to admit hundreds of objects which otherwise would necessarily have been excluded.

"It will be seen, therefore, from the foregoing, that what was undertaken as a small experiment by a few working men, had, in the space of five months, acquired the character of an important social movement, the management of which demanded the expenditure of considerably more time than was originally anticipated. The Committee feel justified in drawing attention to this fact, as their limited means have necessarily circumscribed their operations, and want of adequate time compelled them to adopt arrangements that might compare unfavourably with similar undertakings carried out by persons of experience, with unlimited resources at their disposal.

"The general arrangements of the Exhibition have been conducted by the Central Committee; but the details have, for the most part, been transacted by three sub-committees, elected from that body, viz., the Opening Committee, the Financial Committee, and the Space Committee.

"In all miscellaneous exhibitions, classification is found a difficult task. In the

present instance the convenience both of exhibitors and the public was consulted, rather than a minute sub-division of the articles exhibited. The classification adopted was as follows:—

CLASS I.—Professional Workmanship.
" II.—Amateur Productions.
" III.—Inventions and Novel Contrivances.
" IV.—Mechanical Models.
" V.—Architectural, Marine, and Ornamental Models.
" VI.—Artistic Objects.
" VII.—Ladies' Work of all kinds.
" VIII.—Miscellaneous—being articles not included in the foregoing.

"By the above arrangement the work of the amateur was not placed in juxtaposition with the production of the skilled workman, which might have caused unfair comparison to be unavoidably made.

"It will readily be conceived that five days—the period given for the performance of this arrangement of the objects—was insufficient to carry it out with artistic effect. The Committee, however, endeavoured to group together, as much as possible, objects of a similar character, and placed those that were likely to attract especial attention in such positions that they might be easily inspected by a large number of persons at the same time.

"The total number of exhibitors to whom space was granted was 880, representing almost every branch of industry, from the profession of sculptor and artist, to the more humble, if no less honourable, calling of the costermonger. By far the larger portion of the Exhibition consists of amateur contributions, and these, the Committee believe, will be found exceedingly curious and interesting. An artisan seldom chooses as a recreation that branch of industry of which his daily occupation consists. If actively or laboriously employed during the day, drawing, painting, or model-making is generally practised to occupy his leisure hours; while he who follows a sedentary occupation almost invariably resorts to some more active method of utilising his spare time. The remarkable proficiency attained by many exhibitors in amateur workmanship cannot fail to afford encouragement to others who may visit the Exhibition, and thus fulfil one of the chief aims of the promoters of the undertaking.

"The Committee decided at the outset not to offer *pecuniary* premiums; they were, however, desirous that such prizes as might be determined upon shall be worthy mementoes of the Exhibition, no less than valued marks of distinction to the holders."

From the particulars received from Mr. W. J. Watts, it appears that in the three weeks the Exhibition was open, not a single case of disturbance took place, although 200,000 persons visited it, of whom was received £2,956. After paying all costs a balance is left of £950. Of the 880 exhibitors, prizes have been awarded to 350 of that number, viz.:—

CLASS	I.	87
"	II.	73
"	III.—(Honourable mention) ...	180
Extra	... ...	10
		350

The cost of the prizes, memorial, &c., will reduce the balance to about £500.

The Exhibition was opened by Earl Russell, K.G., and closed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The prizes will be distributed by the Earl of Shaftesbury in Exeter Hall on January 16th. The prizes will consist of a certificate, which in itself will be a work of art of considerable merit, in the Italian style. In the top centre will be a view of the Exhibition, supported by figures of Strength, Beauty, Labour, and Taste; Fame and Fortune will be at the base, and between them a medal representing the genius of the Exhibition, and containing full particulars of the opening and the closing of it. Added to this there will be an illustrated memorial, containing the best likeness that can be obtained of—The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.; the Right Hon. Earl Russell, K.G.; the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.; and Mr. W. J. Watts, the Hon. Secretary. And also will shortly be published an Illustrated Catalogue, to be presented to each exhibitor.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer in closing the Exhibition, said:—

"I cordially and sincerely congratulate you upon an Exhibition such as that we have witnessed here. A sentiment of admiration not unmingled with surprise will, I think, possess the mind of the impartial observer when he comes within these walls and sees, or has seen, the nature of the works they contain. We see here an evidence of the growth of the labouring class. I must say that in one point of view an interest attaches to what we see within the Agricultural Hall such as never attached to the more gorgeous Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862. Those great Exhibitions and their promoters will have reason to reckon among the many beneficial results of these Exhibitions the fact that, without doubt, they gave the first suggestion for the creation of a spectacle such as we now behold. But in those great Exhibitions we saw what the wealth of the world could do, we saw what were the resources of skill and industry, aided by the profuse employment of capital. But here we have drawn upon no such resources of capital. We see here, as it were, in its first formation, the efforts of British labour, and we have reason to congratulate the country first of all for the possession of such skill as is here displayed; and, secondly, upon the disposition to use for such healthful and beneficial purposes the scanty leisure afforded after the hours of toil and the remaining energies which the beneficial exercise of labour has left unexhausted."

LIFE AND DEATH IN BETHNAL GREEN.

NICHOL STREET RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THERE was a philosopher once, and a wise one too, who said, "That in contemplating the miseries of our neighbours we took comfort to ourselves;" but such a remark ought certainly to have been qualified by the character of the peculiar misery witnessed, otherwise Ragged School teachers, who per-

haps see more real misery than any other class of persons, should be, in virtue of such a position, the happiest people in the world: happy they may be, and happy they are, not in the mere witnessing, but in endeavouring to ameliorate the evils by which they are surrounded, evils which are painful enough even to hear of, much more so to witness, and which require fortitude of no ordinary character to grapple with. Moral red cross knights crusading against ignorance and sin in their hundred degrading forms of hideousness—sin and ignorance the most deplorable, where our fellow-creatures are the most closely "packed," as the word reside does not at all adequately express our meaning. For the honour of Christians, it surely must be hoped that the east of London is unknown; that it is so, even physically, to the far larger majority of residents in the other parts of the metropolis, is a fact. Few, very few, know anything of the vast neighbourhoods comprised in the three parishes of Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and Bethnal Green, with an aggregate population of nearly 400,000 souls; and of their moral and religious state still less is known.

In the last-named of these three parishes has been for twenty-seven years conducted the Nichol Street Ragged Schools. This institution is ripening into its manhood of usefulness. It has long been one of the largest and most efficiently conducted of the Ragged Schools in the east of London. The term "Ragged School" does not fully convey to the mind of a stranger the character of the Christian and philanthropic efforts here put forth. "Home Mission to the Poor" would perhaps be a better designation, for in addition to the schools for 400 children, there is a large mission church where the Gospel is preached to large audiences of the poor of the locality; also Penny Banks, Clothing Clubs, Mothers' Meetings, Dorcas Society, and, when needed, a Soup Kitchen. The last, but not least, extension of the efforts of this Institution is the formation of Reading and Recreation Rooms for the youths and men of the locality. Perhaps not less than 1,500 individuals are being more or less benefited directly by this Institution, and indirectly a much larger number. It is, however, felt that something more is required than is at present attempted, and that is in relation to the houses of these poor people, or rather we ought to say the houses, rooms, and dens in which they exist, for they can scarcely be said to live. The landed property in such densely-populated localities as Nichol Street are often found to belong to corporate bodies, deans and chapters, and to men of station and wealth, but the high, even exorbitant, rents paid by the inmates are not received by these landowners, for the property is let on long leases.

The first leaseholder is often a man of some position in society, and again leases this kind of property. A sub-lease is granted to a middleman, and he, probably disliking the trouble of collecting the rents, and not understanding repairs, again under-lets, or employs an agent, giving him a considerable interest in the management of the property.

This agent is generally one who has been for some years the victim of the system he is now administering. You can scarcely expect the man, with the recollections of his own wrongs, the force of custom strong upon him, with his imperfect education, or rather the total want of it, with that absence of religious or moral restraint so prevalent amongst this class, to be more conscientious or more feeling than his brethren. He will grind others as he

himself has been ground; prey upon others as he himself has been preyed on; their loss being his gain, he will indemnify himself at the expense of the tenants for years of previous oppression.

But what do the tenants pay for? Houses, with the boards crumbling, with rents in the walls, with casements only held together with string, with staircases so crazy as to bend under your tread, without water or any decent accommodation, and at rents which, in proportion to the accommodation, no other class of the community pays—of course, two rooms are a luxury hardly ever thought of, certainly not in the immediate streets surrounding Nichol Street Schools; and these tenants are not only the vicious, but the industrious, who ought to be the very sinews of society. In these wretched dwellings, all ages and both sexes—fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, grown up brothers and sisters, swarms of children, the sick, the dying, and the dead—are herded together in such close proximity that would not be tolerated by savages, and which brutes would resist. Where it is physically impossible to preserve the ordinary decencies of life, all sense of propriety and self-respect must be lost, and be replaced only by a recklessness of demeanour which necessarily results from vitiated minds.

Now, look at the difficulty, nay, the almost helpless task of seeking to implant in the young mind thus situated, the seeds of religion, virtue, truth, order, industry, and cleanliness; seeds, which to fructify advantageously, need a soil far less rank than is found in these wretched abodes. Tender minds once vitiated, present almost insuperable difficulties to reformation; nothing but the grace of God is sufficient, for bad habits and depraved feelings increase with the growth and strengthen with the strength.

The surest way to improve the physical, moral, and religious condition of the labouring classes, and to give education a *fair* field, is to reform the home. Local associations might be formed, and by the aid of Parliament, possess themselves of such buildings as we have described, rebuilding suitable dwellings, properly drained, ventilated, and supplied with water, and letting them at fair prices, which would be so cheaply that the poor shall have no excuse for herding together like animals. In this way the great evils of overcrowding would be remedied for that large class of our labouring population who are prepared to adopt habits of cleanliness and decency.

Cheap houses will go far to give a death blow to this fatal system of subletting; and to build such houses seems to be a work of prevention most desirable and necessary, if we really are in earnest in our endeavours to check the vice and profligacy which the present system fearfully encourages. When *shall* we be alive to our great national interests? Call them selfish interests, if you will; for in stretching forth a helping hand in this direction there is no doubt the reaction would be in many senses quite as great a blessing to the nation at large, as to the class immediately benefited.

The report of an inquest held in Nichol Street on Saturday, Nov. 5th, on the body of an infant, gives us another glimpse into a Bethnal Green interior, and the mode of life among the poor of that district. Number 14½ in that street is tenanted by nineteen persons. In the top front room a family of five persons are herded together, for the use of which the large sum of 2*s*. 6d. a week is paid. One has since been removed to the hospital for fever. In the adjoining room lives a single woman. The two rooms underneath are

occupied by a family of three persons, and the front cellar is used as a workshop. In the back cellar dwelt last month George Collinson, a labourer, his wife, and five children; and it was the death of his youngest child, an infant of nine weeks, which occasioned the inquest referred to. The appearance of this underground abode, as viewed by the coroner's jury, is thus described:—"It was about 6½ feet high and 9 feet long, by 8 broad. The glass in the sunken window was broken, and thus the air was rendered less fetid. The furniture consisted solely of two backless and bottomless chairs, across one of which was nailed a board that did duty as a table. A very small bundle of shavings in the corner served as a bed; there were no bed-clothes."

This was the "home" of Collinson and his family. The poor man seems to have got a precarious livelihood by odd jobs, which brought him in on the average five shillings a week. Early in September, Collinson and his family—the little furniture they had having been seized for a few weeks' arrears of rent—went into Bethnal Green Workhouse. Himself, wife, and one child had the fever in "the house," the two eldest so badly that they were placed in the hospital. Overcrowding and want of adequate nourishment were, no doubt, the cause of their illness. Here they were "well treated," but the poor man, not wishing to be a burden, and thinking that work was to be had, left the workhouse with his family on Tuesday, Oct. 27th. But they "found they could not get into any place," and were glad again to take refuge in their underground cellar. Though really too weak to work, Collinson had earned a trifle since he left "the house," but the family mainly depended upon the 3s. 6d. a week wages of the eldest boy, and refused to make further application to the parish for relief, "though they had had neither meat nor beer since they left the workhouse." The mother was of course unable to suckle her child, and could only give it "halfpennyworths of arrowroot two or three times a day, or in the middle of the night, just as they could manage the money." It died from exhaustion produced by diarrhœa, "resulting from want and exposure," and was so emaciated before its decease as to weigh only six pounds. Mrs. Collinson is described in the report of the inquest as "a miserable-looking woman, who appeared to be in a dying state," and will probably soon follow her child to the grave. Indeed, the health of the whole family seems to be seriously impaired by fever and starvation.

Such cases as these are, unhappily, so common, that it is only when an inquest is held and reported that they excite attention. Hundreds of our fellow-creatures thus struggle awhile, and pass off the stage of existence. How many poor children die off prematurely and without a sign before the battle of life is commenced, the Registrar-General's return weekly but briefly records. With the knowledge we have of the condition of the poorer districts of London and all our large towns—the overcrowded, unhealthy dwellings, the total neglect of sanitary precautions, and the ignorance, carelessness, and injurious habits of the poor—the wonder is, not that so many children die, but that so many survive. Official inquiries and coroners' inquests have abundantly shown during the last year or two that the case of the Collinsons is the case of hundreds of other families in the poor districts of the metropolis, and that 14½, Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, is the type of hundreds of other houses, in which disease and want are, with more or less

activity, undermining the health and vitality of their inmates. Intemperance is a giant evil, but by no means the sole cause of misery among the poor. In this instance the family had the character of being "sober people."

Collinson and his family were the victims of misfortunes to which all are more or less liable. He did not belong to Bethnal Green. "We were being passed to Shoreditch," said his wife at the inquest—how many poor wretches are ever passed on to St. George's, Hanover Square?—and at Shoreditch they were refused admission into the casual ward till twelve o'clock at night, and obliged to sit on the stones exposed to the cold night air. It is, no doubt, very cruel of the parochial authorities to treat the destitute thus severely. But it is to be borne in mind that the whole of this eastern district, of which the above parishes form a part, is more or less pauperized; and the rates are so enormous, that the guardians instinctively strive to keep them down to prevent the parishioners from being overwhelmed with the pressure. And what can private benevolence do amid such an ocean of destitution? The poor of London are more and more driven away from the neighbourhood of the rich into localities where they herd together in inadequate abodes, and help each other as best they can; while the wealthy and well-to-do are thus relieved, not only of all legal claims, but of those responsibilities which near proximity entails.

Is it not an equitable principle that the wealth of London should support the destitution of London? How far this is from being the case is notorious. The poor-rates of Bethnal Green and the adjacent parishes are double or treble those of the West End parishes. If an equalization of rates throughout the metropolis is at present unattainable, some approach to that equitable arrangement might be made. Last Session the Government carried a bill to provide refuges for the vagrant, houseless poor in the metropolitan districts, to be chargeable upon the common fund of unions. The principle is a sound one, and if extended to the resident poor—as recommended by the Committee who sat on the subject—would go far to meet the glaring inequalities of the present system of relief, remove one of the great obstacles to the erection of better dwellings for the industrial classes, and render less frequent such painful incidents as that just disclosed before a coroner's jury in Bethnal Green. Surely the hard-working poor of London are as much deserving of legislative intervention as the destitute wanderers who prowl about our streets at night!

P.S. On this case being made known to Mr. H. R. Williams, Honorary Secretary of the Albert Street Girls' Refuge, he most kindly offered to admit two of Collinson's daughters into that Home, where they would in every respect be provided for, and trained for service. Since then another offer was made to admit the son into the Little Boys' Home at Tottenham, but, strange to say, these valuable offers have been declined by the Collinsons. We do not wish to impute wrong motives for not accepting such effective help, but such conduct does require some explanation.